

The Mt. Airy Claybreakers Garden Club met on 12 February 2015 at the home of Mary Beth Cecil. Present were 19 members and two guests--Norma Murphy and Carol Ann Williams. Linda Millette and Lorraine Leonard celebrated their February birthdays. At the time of the meeting, Marian Moreland was on the sick list. She has since passed away. Funeral arrangements have been sent in a separate e-mail.

PROGRAM: Club member Diana Morse presented a talk on "A BUG'S LIFE," giving examples and descriptions of each life stage: egg, nymph, larvae, and adult. She began with a description of a scary looking creature she discovered in her yard, only to find out it was the **nymph** stage of the dragonfly, also known as a Nyad. After hatching from their hard **egg** cases, mantises can become cannibalistic. As **adults**, dragon flies eat tadpoles and mosquitoes. The presence of praying mantises in a yard is evidence of a healthy ecosystem. She went on to describe interesting examples of **larvae** or **grub** stage of various bugs such as beetle grubs she has found surviving in hard clay. As adults, fireflies glow, but do so even as grubs. The program ended with a discussion of the various stages of cicadas, moths, and tent caterpillars, also known as bagworms. Books recommended by the speaker include *Insect Lives: Summer, Fall, Winter and Spring* by Stokes and *Secret Lives of Backyard Bugs*, found by the authors' 1/8th of an acre back yard.

BUSINESS MEETING:

Recording Secretary: The e-mail minutes were approved. Esther Neckere announced a change in the yearbook: Mary Jane Bishop's new e-mail is mjbish60@G-mail.com.

Treasurer: Carol Ober reported a current club bank balance of \$1,577.91. Club dues of \$25 are due in March.

Historian: Lorraine Leonard's well written articles in the *Marlton Advocate* reflect the club's achievements.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Design: Julie Harrison created a Valentine's Day arrangement of roses, carnations, and greenery from her yard. She used a heavy green glass footed bowl, with a wide enough top in which in which she fit a pre-soaked piece of Oasis. She offered tips on making lasting arrangements: condition the flowers and put in the greenery in first.

Horticulture: Jessica Sherlock described the colorful perennial Cyclamen as a popular little flower to brighten the winter, since the plant goes dormant in the summer and flowers in the fall. The plant can be revived after done blooming as a house or garden plant. The British call its round tuber "sowbread," since wild boars eat them

Membership: Elaine Arnold reported that Marsha Kirchhoff has resigned from the club due to job and family responsibilities. She was invited to return when she is able. Marsha also sent a thank-you note for her October birthday gift.

Sunshine: Arminta Donovan sent out five birthday cards.

OLD BUSINESS:

- President Gilda Allen led a line-by-line discussion of the revised club by-laws created by a committee of Gilda Allen, Elaine Arnold, Dot Lower, Deborah Determan, and Iona Black. The approved changes will appear in the final version.
- The proposal to involve club members in classroom gardening projects has been discontinued due to school security requirements.
- The proposal to purchase a tablecloth or banner with the club name and logo for use at events in which the club participates remains tabled.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A committee comprised of Iona Black, Carol Ober, and Pam Smart proposed that the club hold a fund raiser of four in-house "yard sales" during the coming year at the following club meetings: March, summer picnic, October, and January. Members can contribute new or gently used articles

to be sold at these meetings; hostesses are requested to provide a display table.

- A potential club project involving arrangement or plant contributions to local libraries was proposed. Lorraine Leonard will contact the Upper Marlboro Library and Esther Neckere will contact the Surratts-Clinton Library.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Julie Harrison will be inducted as the new District 1 Director at the District 1 meeting at the US Arboretum, March 14, from 10-11 am.
- Brookside Gardens lists of events and workshops for 2015 is available from the club president
- The Philadelphia Flower Show starts on February 28.

NEXT MONTH'S MEETING will be hosted by Iona Black. The speaker will be Gene Sumi of Homestead Gardens on the topic of Water Conservation.

Respectfully Submitted

Esther Neckere

Esther Neckere, Recording Secretary